

REMARKS

The minimum iron content that is now recited in the claims finds support in page 35- see the reported iron content of example 2.

Claims 1-12 and 16 of the parent application faced a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,162,419 to Pottier-Metz et al. (the '419 document). The '419 document is silent relative to iron content in the disclosed talc and cannot reasonably be taken as anticipating the claims as presently amended. Moreover, the experimental evidence included with the application pointing to the surprising and unexpected dependence of the impact properties of the claimed composition on the iron content militates against the allegation of obviousness.

Claims 13-15 of the parent faced a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '419 document and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,961,915 to Toyouchi et al. (the '915 document).

The '419 document has been discussed above and its shortcoming in the present context were noted.

The '915 document disclosed a flame retardant composition containing an amorphous thermoplastic resin, an inorganic filler in a scale form and a phosphoric acid ester. There is nothing in the '915 document relative to iron content and is thus seen to supplement the disclosure of the '419 in no presently relevant fashion.

Examination of the application and its consideration in view of the amendment and in light of the above comments are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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